

Observation Session 2

Friday, 17 January 2020 4:34 PM

TC 00:00:04.760 - 00:00:08.198

Researcher um, ok, so what languages do you speak?

TC 00:00:07.720 - 00:00:12.250

P2 uh English, Spanish, Czech, Portugese

TC 00:00:11.667 - 00:00:18.055

Researcher wow, impressive, um and what would you rate your language proficiencies in each of your languages including about reading, writing etc

TC 00:00:17.006 - 00:00:26.310

P2 uh, 10 in English 'cause it's my mother tongue, I would say probably 9 in Spanish, I'm almost as comfortable, in Spanish, Czech like a 7 probably and Portuguese is like 6, 7, yeah

TC 00:00:25.134 - 00:00:40.602

Researcher um, I kinda wanna ask you more about Spanish but I need to like, ok, um so have you had to do the Czech Language Certificate Exam?

TC 00:00:40.316 - 00:00:49.147

P2 Yes

TC 00:00:47.800 - 00:00:49.299

Researcher and what level did you do?

TC 00:00:49.147 - 00:00:51.840

P2 Oh I just had to do the one for permanent residency, which is like the most basic one, ridiculously simple task

TC 00:00:50.866 - 00:00:56.250

Researcher cool, [laughs] yep, I have heard that actually, um and what is your opinion on mixing between your languages in speech so like, within a sentence or between sentences, with other bilinguals and, that sort of thing

TC 00:00:55.062 - 00:01:09.904

P2 so all of my friends know that I have this theory that all of the foreign languages that I know live in the same part of my brain because it doesn't happen when I'm speaking English but when I'm speaking any other foreign language, things will mix and I won't even realise it and it's like, it's usually like connector words or um, you know it's never like nouns or verbs or whatever, it's things like the, and, if, when, you know like the, those kinda parts of speech that - I'll be speaking Czech and then the Spanish connector will come in or I'll be trying to speak Portuguese and like um, yeah, so I tell everybody that like, I think there's one section that holds all the foreign language and it's all just like a soup in there

TC 00:01:09.033 - 00:01:52.671

Researcher yep, awesome, that's so cool, um so, in regards to that, so does - that never really happens in English?

TC 00:01:50.853 - 00:02:03.311

P2 sometimes, like if I search for a word in English like it will pop up in like, in like descending scale of how - of how proficient I am in the other languages, sometimes I'll just have

like a total blank on how to say apple in English and it'll come like, oh manzana, jablka, like you know, you know, nope nope nope not what I'm looking for [laughs]

TC 00:02:02.030 - 00:02:26.620

Researcher ah that's awesome, but also frustrating [laughs]

TC 00:02:24.799 - 00:02:28.641

P2 yeah, yeah

TC 00:02:27.786 - 00:02:29.760

Researcher um, ok so when you're talking to other bilinguals um, do you ever notice yourself using both of your languages then, like actually saying it out, what's in your brain?

TC 00:02:29.147 - 00:02:41.199

P2 yes, like, uh my - all of my close girlfriends are Czechs who are also fluent in English and so, we have this very strange language that only us understand especially after a couple of

glasses of wine, it's just like hey, it's- it becomes a sort of mix, just whatever word comes first in the, like, and I think it happens more with them because the Czech is much more to

the forefront, we tend to speak English together and then it kind of morphs a little bit, and at first we would correct all the time and now we're just like, whatever, we understand each

other, so, yeah

TC 00:02:39.504 - 00:03:20.287

Researcher yeah, yeah which is the important thing so yeah, um so, I've got sort of a question on why do you do this, and then I've got a couple of ideas so maybe if you wanna um - and then you can

say yes or no to those ideas, um maybe if you just answer why you think this might happen first and then I'll like give you the prompts

TC 00:03:16.553 - 00:03:37.611

SD (2.52)

P2 um, I think specifically for Czech and English now, I go back and forth between the two of them so much over a day, I think sometimes maybe as I start to get tired or my brain starts to

fatigue or something like it is paying less attention to how I'm putting the words together or something, um, yeah I mean so that would be my first guess is that there's just so much

shifting back and forth, even in my brain sometimes I'll find myself thinking in Czech and then thinking in English and thinking in Czech or listening to music in English and then in

Spanish and then in Czech and so it's like uh it- like - yeah, sometimes it just gets scrambled

TC 00:03:40.136 - 00:04:23.754

Researcher yep, ok well I'll give you the prompts now and then you can say yes or no, so does it ever happen due to momentarily forgetting a word?

TC 00:04:22.774 - 00:04:29.616

P2 yes

TC 00:04:28.814 - 00:04:30.596

Researcher yep, um you find another word more useful or more appropriate for the situation, like contextually or

TC 00:04:30.205 - 00:04:36.630

SD (0.87)

P2 sometimes only swear words in a foreign language will do [laughs]

TC 00:04:37.504 - 00:04:44.520

P3 they've got some good ones in Czech

TC 00:04:42.121 - 00:04:45.035

Researcher yeah [laughs]

TC 00:04:43.705 - 00:04:46.723

Researcher um, another word expresses the meaning more fully that you want to express

TC 00:04:46.723 - 00:04:53.345

SD (0.9)

P2 yeah, yeah I would say, yeah

TC 00:04:54.246 - 00:05:02.717

Researcher and um, another word feels easier to express in that language

TC 00:05:01.970 - 00:05:06.892

SD (3.3)

P2 mmmm, yes, also, like all of the above so far, yeah

TC 00:05:10.195 - 00:05:15.897

Researcher um ok so next question is, do you feel that you borrow words from between languages in a bilingual situation and what kinds of words so nouns, verbs, adjectives, or just the whole?

TC 00:05:15.753 - 00:05:29.160

P2 yeah, no I think that's going back to what I said originally like it's more of the connector words like, if, the, and, you know those kind of things

TC 00:05:27.958 - 00:05:39.937

Researcher yeah which is so interesting 'cause I've like not heard someone ever say that, super interesting and especially because obviously some connector words do exist in Czech but obviously

'the' doesn't exist in Czech so that's definitely interesting um.... do you ever like maybe insert 'the' into Czech like in a different language like in Spanish or something like that,

like does it ever?

TC 00:05:37.706 - 00:06:05.460

P2 oh really, yeah [laughs]

TC 00:05:42.036 - 00:05:44.555

SD (5.32)

P2 right, right right right yep

TC 00:05:49.875 - 00:05:53.823

SD (10.24)

P2 no, 'cause it doesn't - it grammatically doesn't really exist yeah, I find myself inserting it in English, um, moreso and I don't know if it's because I'm around so many Czechs that speak English as a second language and because I- I feel almost like they overuse 'the' because - 'cause it's not - so, I say things like "the nature" and things like that that I never would say before [laughs]

TC 00:06:04.071 - 00:06:29.553

P3 having a fun in the nature, yeah yeah

TC 00:06:27.908 - 00:06:31.241

Researcher yeah you know I actually really understand that because even I started doing that when I used to live here and yeah it's so weird

TC 00:06:30.528 - 00:06:52.208

P2 mmm, word, uh word order, I think is the thing that most, that I have to think about when I'm switching between languages, um, thankfully word order in Czech and Spanish is quite similar, but, but yeah I think that grammatically like the word order thing is the one that I most often mess up

TC 00:06:51.380 - 00:07:14.787

Researcher and do you think - do you think it like ever happens from Czech grammatical word order into English or is it just English into Czech or?

TC 00:07:11.730 - 00:07:23.065

P2 it's both, like it'll go back and forth, yeah yeah yeah, like I'll say something in English and be like, well that was dumb that's not how you say that in English, like, let me, let me put the words in the right order in that language, um and then in Czech it happens all the time 'cause I - there's so many word order rules in Czech I feel like I'm still figuring it all out but yeah

TC 00:07:22.350 - 00:07:46.891

Researcher yeah, yeah it's crazy because it's technically like a free word order language but really there's like, yeah, there are rules

TC 00:07:44.437 - 00:07:53.371

P2 yeah or you just start to hear like, that's not how somebody would say that, right right

TC 00:07:51.011 - 00:08:01.580

Researcher ok do you ever like add any um Czech endings onto English words when you're speaking English, like even as a playful thing or whatever

TC 00:08:00.397 - 00:08:11.956

P2 oh our dogs have like very strange nicknames, like all- my son started it, like our dog's name is Lexi and he calls her Lexinku, or Lexinkovač, which is like, neither, you know it's just
 very like, it made, it made him think she was more Czech sounding when he was like 4 and 5, yeah
[laughs]

TC 00:08:10.953 - 00:08:31.657

Researcher aww that's so cute [laughs] aw that's so nice

TC 00:08:27.980 - 00:08:33.995

Researcher um ok do you ever say 2 words or 2 morphemes in the same sentence that express the same concept but use them both like for emphasis, so it's a bit of a hard question this one but like
 for example like, saying little holčička, so the čič bit is already expressing that it's small and cute, and you say little as well, like so you're saying both of them but they both mean
 the same thing

TC 00:08:33.995 - 00:09:00.884

P2 yep

TC 00:08:57.501 - 00:08:59.208

SD (0.99)

P2 um, uh probably I- I do, uh and I- I think it would- it happens obviously more in Czech because I would be thinking about like, the little girl, and then I would say malá, and then be
 like, but I'm gonna say holčička, so like, yeah yeah

TC 00:09:00.200 - 00:09:24.438

Researcher yeah but not really like, across languages like you wouldn't say little in English and then-

TC 00:09:23.645 - 00:09:29.472

P2 it doesn't- no I don't feel like, no I don't think I would do that across languages necessarily

TC 00:09:25.780 - 00:09:33.406

Researcher um ok and we already sort of talked about word order so, what places do you tend to be in when you either mix your languages or when you just speak English or just speak Czech?

TC 00:09:32.824 - 00:09:44.026

P2 um, I just speak Czech at - post office, pretty much anywhere when I'm out and about in the city like I do my best to speak Czech like that was a big milestone for me when people didn't
 start talking English back to me immediately, so when I am by myself, in Czech Republic I'm speaking Czech almost all the time to the people that I interact with, um, when I'm at home we

speak mostly English, we'll mess around with some other languages sometimes but it's pretty much 99% English, uh with friends I'd say it's, with our whole group of friends it's like 90%

 English, with my girlfriends it's like 50/50

TC 00:09:43.700 - 00:10:37.310

Researcher mmhmm, um and how long have you been living here in the Czech Republic?

TC 00:10:35.620 - 00:10:40.565

P2 uh we moved here for the first time in 2008, but we did almost 2 years back in Seattle, from 2010 to 2012, so yeah

TC 00:10:39.700 - 00:10:50.535

Researcher um, and how long have you been speaking Czech?

TC 00:10:49.260 - 00:10:52.774

P2 so I started right away with lessons when we first moved here in 2008 but I would say that I could say that I've really been speaking Czech for probably the last five years, we moved

 here the second time, I got a conversation teacher and started really like wanting to be able to fluently express myself rather than just like, put words together, so

TC 00:10:52.135 - 00:11:10.909

Researcher yeah, ok and do you feel any form of societal or community pressure to either mix the two languages or to not mix the two languages, like in public or whatever

TC 00:11:10.300 - 00:11:21.824

P2 um, I don't- I don't really, like, the, the only kind of odd societal thing I think over the last few years I've noticed is that people are really really surprised when foreigners speak

 Czech, and so much in fact that they're like why would you waste your time learning this language, kind of thing, like we all, like people speak enough English and blah blah blah, for me

 it's always been like a respect thing like if I'm gonna live here, I wanna be able to communicate in your language, um and I think like definitely she could tell you [gesturing to

 P3] it was a must probably, in the time you were living here and now it's crazy how easy it is to get by without Czech but I think that's kinda sad, so, it's weird when the societal

 pressure is like, why are you learning this language, you know [laughs]

TC 00:11:21.180 - 00:12:09.943

Researcher yeah yeah, it's strange, yeah

TC 00:12:07.330 - 00:12:11.821

P3 I need to stay out of the conversation don't I or like- it has to be separate interviews right? Ok, sure sure

TC 00:12:11.024 - 00:12:17.870

Researcher yeah yep like so just keep it, keep it up here [gestures to brain], and so um do you feel any social pressure to like, conform to the majority language at all like in public and stuff

like that, no?

TC 00:12:14.221 - 00:12:29.251

P2 um, yeah, like if we're at a restaurant I will - if we're in a group, I will speak to the waiter in Czech, usually, and typically what ends up happening is that like, because everybody

else is speaking English, like, everybody just ends up speaking English, so but it's not more- it's not like a pressure thing, it's just like, maybe what ends up being easiest for the group or what - I don't, I don't know

TC 00:12:27.740 - 00:13:02.245

Researcher mmhmm, so that's more to do with yeah, English being easier but as for like, no pressure in the outside of the Czech Republic like, in public out on the tram or whatever you just don't

really feel any pressure, if you're speaking English you don't feel like uncomfortable or anything like that or, it's just more about, out of respect that you choose to speak Czech

TC 00:13:00.733 - 00:13:22.284

P2 yes, yeah

TC 00:13:20.253 - 00:13:23.712

Researcher um, ok do you feel any language pride for your own language, English?

TC 00:13:22.900 - 00:13:29.823

P2 like, that it's a nice language or that - like, how, language pride I guess?

TC 00:13:29.289 - 00:13:36.330

Researcher for example I did a similar study in South Australia and there's like a Czech - Czech community there, you know they're like a minority, and stuff so they feel a lot of pride for their

language and it's history and it's culture and that sort of thing so like, yeah yeah

TC 00:13:35.414 - 00:13:52.403

P2 oh wow, ok that's interesting yeah yeah, I can see how it would be in that sort of community I think English is so ubiquitous that I don't - I honestly don't really think about it, I

oftentimes think wow, how lucky am I that I was born learning - like speaking the language that everybody wants to speak, like that's a pretty good roll of the dice but other than that,

I wouldn't say that I have anything like that, yeah, yeah

TC 00:13:48.486 - 00:14:12.714

Researcher yeah, um ok and what language do you listen to most of your media in so TV, movies, books, etc

TC 00:14:10.954 - 00:14:21.300

P2 um, music is probably 70% Spanish actually and then English and some Czech, I tried really hard to find good Czech music, it, I have a few bands that I really like um, 'cause it- music

is just- I think that was one of the ways that I really started learning language, it was through music, I would say it's probably 70/30, English and Czech for TV, and yeah that's ..

TC 00:14:20.710 - 00:14:56.042

Researcher um and what language do you - we sort of already said, so with your friends you kind of have a bit of a mix and stuff um, this is not on here but what language does your dog speak?

[laughs]

TC 00:14:55.476 - 00:15:12.910

P2 [laughs] our dogs speak English and Czech, yeah, yeah 'cause they were from a shelter in Slovakia, and they already knew like a certain handful of Slovak commands and so it was easier to

kind of push that into the Czech side because it sounded similar enough and then because we just speak English at home they started to learn those as well but they - they respond to both

the Czech and English commands for like sit, lay down, stay, that kinda stuff, yeah

TC 00:15:11.052 - 00:15:39.325

Researcher mmhmm yeah that's so- yeah we saw a dog on the street the other day and it was like- had its little collar on and I said hello and it didn't look up, then I was like, ahoj and it looked

up and I was like aw, so cute, anyway sorry I love dogs, um how often do you visit home or an English speaking country?

TC 00:15:35.770 - 00:15:52.726

P2 um, we go back to the US once a year

TC 00:15:51.910 - 00:15:59.740

P2 and we might go to England once every couple of years, so yeah, so I would say once maybe twice a year for me and my son, yeah

TC 00:15:59.740 - 00:16:11.285

Researcher ok cool um yeah well that's pretty much the whole interview so, thank you so much again for coming along and participating, and if you think of any more weird or interesting things to

email me but if not that's all good